

PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base
September 2004 • Vol. 31, No. 9



439AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.

Trademark effort stamps air show

Last month marked one year since I took command of the 439th Airlift Wing and Westover Air Reserve Base. During that year I have been continually amazed at the level of excellence shown by the men and women of this base in everything you do. From inspections, to deployments, to day-to-day operations, you all know how to do it right. The air show in August was another shining example of how the Westover team gets the job done – and why all of you have earned the stellar reputation this organization has throughout the Air Force.



Commentary

Our Great New England Air Show of 2004 went very, very well. Considering the extensive security requirements and the less-than-favorable weather, I was especially pleased. I can't say enough about everyone involved. Reservists, civilians, volunteers, and Griffin Services workers all pulled together – one more example of your excellent work that is the Westover trademark.

Our security forces handled the massive task of coordinating traffic direction in and out of the base. More than 330,000 people made their way here from all over New England. Services led the way with overseeing a fantastic display of fireworks and a performance by the Marshall Tucker Band in the base ellipse. This was free to all reservists and civilian workers at Westover. The dedicated folks with the Galaxy Community Council coordinated a superb lineup of vintage Warbirds aircraft. There are many, many other people who worked long hours – all of you did a superb job!

As the saying goes, no rest for the weary - because now we head onto our next challenges. Our readiness skills will be tested with upcoming exercises and inspections. In October we have a deployment exercise to start that process. Then, in March 2005 we have a large deployment to Savannah, Ga., to further hone our deployment and warfighting skills. While we are doing all that, we also have to prepare for a Unit Compliance Inspection in August 2005! We are also preparing for the "big wing ORI" now less than two years away. Despite the number and complexity of these challenges, I know Westover people will rise to the occasion and come through, as always, with flying colors.

THANKS for all your hard work and dedication to make the 439th and Westover the best!

by Col. Wade Farris
439th Airlift Wing commander

Briefs

Intranet page features voting information

Voting assistance is available at a Westover Intranet site. Accessible anytime, the site offers information about any national, state and local election, voter registration and absentee ballot requests.

To access the site, click on the voting assistance information link on the Westover ARB Intranet homepage or directly go to: https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/439aw/msg/mpf/mssvote/mssvote_index.htm.

Reservists with questions should contact their squadron voting officers.

Bowling center takes sign-ups for fall league

Sign-ups are being taken at the bowling center for the fall league. For more information, call the center at Ext. 3990. It is located on Hercules Road across from the base exchange.

Chaplain staff helps area HeadStarts log on

The 439th Airlift Wing chaplain staff recently coordinated an effort to donate computers to local HeadStart centers.

According to Master Sgt. Robert J. Kazalski, noncommissioned officer in charge of the chaplain staff, more than 50 computers and monitors were transferred to Holyoke/Chicopee/Springfield HeadStart, Inc. and pre-school HeadStart centers in Holyoke, Chicopee, Springfield, Ludlow, Granby, and Palmer.

Head Start serves more than 1,200 children in these communities. Sergeant Kazalski and Chaplain (Capt.) William S. Wiecher worked with Sharon M. Duval, 439th Communications Squadron, beginning last spring.

Cover photo

The Thunderbirds perform at the 2004 Great New England Air Show Aug. 14. For more on the air show weekend, turn to Pages 3-7 and 12.

- photo by Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon

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More than 330,000 jam flight line for air show

Hurricanes' wakes fail to dampen spectators' enthusiasm



photo by Senior Airman Tom Ouellette

CROWDING IN - Thousands of spectators swarm the Westover flight line during the 2004 Great New England Air Show. An estimated attendance of more than 330,000 people came to the base despite the cloudy and rainy weather throughout the weekend.

by Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon

They came, they saw, and they dodged an occasional puddle or two.

The weather may have threatened the Great New England Air Show at times during the weekend of Aug. 14-15, but that didn't keep the momentum from slowing. The air show headliners, the Thunderbirds were still able to perform both afternoons, delighting crowds with their graceful formations and sudden "behind the crowd" passes.

As the quartet of red, white, and blue F-16s roared by in diamond formation, simultaneous smiles spread across a sea of faces turned skyward. The diamond is just one of many maneuvers the Thunderbird pilots performed.

More than 330,000 spectators attended, but crowds were smaller than normal as show performances had to work around the rainy remnants of Hurricanes Bonnie and Charley.

The weather and security requirements posed challenges for the more than 2,000 Patriot Wing reservists who handled everything from parking details to air show management. Maj. Jeff Hancock, this year's air show director, cited the highlights of the air show and Aug. 14 performance of the Marshall Tucker Band.

"We had no major problems – only some minor ones that we see **AIR SHOW** continued on page 4

Patriot Wing SPs stand guard at 'The Wire'

Article and photo

by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan, Camp America Public Affairs

As Troopers of the 1186th Military Police Company lined up for an open-ranks inspection, 13 members in their ranks stood out.

These members wear similar battle-dress uniforms, but they don't call themselves Soldiers. They don't bear the U.S. flag on the shoulders, but stripes in the shape of wings.

They are the Airmen of the 439th Security Forces Squadron and are the first Air Force reserve unit to support detainee operations in Camp Delta. Their arrival here also marks another first: these Airmen will be working as corrections officers for the first time.



ROLL CALL - Deployed members of the 439th Security Forces Squadron listen to instructions as they report for roll call at Camp Delta, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"It's a different aspect of law enforcement, said Master Sgt. Marc Bourgeois, noncommissioned officer in charge. "We're used to being the guys that put handcuffs on somebody and taking them to a correctional facility, and now we're seeing the other side of it. We're getting insight on how another branch of service works." To prepare for operations here, the 439th members trained with Hampden County (Mass.) correctional police officers.

"Hampden police were very helpful to give us a great insight on how a correctional facility operates," Sergeant Bourgeois said.

The Airmen also trained with Sailors and Marines at Fort Dix, N.J. The 439th also participates in an annual three to four week combat defense training, which takes its lessons from the Army Infantry manual. The training involves combat patrols, heavy weapons, ambushes, defensive maneuvers and land navigation.

Each of the unit's members volunteered for this assignment and say they relish the chance to work with members of other services and participate in the Joint Task Force's unique mission. "I think it's awesome to get the chance to come in and be part of something in the making," said Sergeant Bourgeois.

"It's a whole new experience," said Tech. Sgt. Dan Ernst. "We welcome it here. We're up for the job and I'm just glad for the opportunity. You don't see the Air Force coming into situations like this too many times. We can show we're just as good as everyone else." The SFS members are scheduled to return in mid-September.

Besides Sergeants Bourgeois and Ernst, the other team members are: Tech. Sgts. Edward L. Plant, Edward J. Majersky, and Daniel R. Lowe; Staff Sgts. Joseph C. Wilkinson, Shawn P. Quinn, Paul A. LeMay, Russell A. Hedges, Ronnie P. Brier, and Senior Airmen Arjul Raul Falcon, Kelly J. Colkos, and Airman 1st Class Russell M. Clearo. They are scheduled to return in mid-September.

AIR SHOW continued from Page 3

hadn't anticipated," he said. "Considering the changes to the parking plan and the weather, everything came off smoothly. And Saturday's Marshall Tucker performance along with the fireworks, was something that we'll remember fondly."

The Galaxy Community Council, a group of volunteers who assist with the air show coordination, also arranged fireworks for the crowds gathered at the base ellipse. The 45-minute display included a dramatic finale with rapid-fire shells and brought loud cheers from the crowd of reservists. The community council members worked many of the air show's acts and provided the hospitality tent along with community sponsors like Big Y supermarkets.

Earlier Saturday, the morning's weather of sun and fluffy clouds with 80-degree temperatures created a perfect backdrop for the U.S. Army's Golden Knights, a precision parachute team.

Also highlighted were flying demonstrations by the Red Baron Pizza Squadron Stearman aircraft, the Warbirds vintage World War II aircraft, and the more modern C-5 and C-17. Various other military aircraft flown in from bases around the country were on static display.

Sunday morning's rainfall brought a slow trickle of crowds onto the base. By noon, the

crowds moved in as the clouds moved out – or at least lifted. As the puddles dried, the airshow ramped up a multi-sensory experience. The buzz and roar of flight mingled with the air show announcer's running commentary, and the smell of sausage, French fries, chicken and burgers from the food tents tantalized taste buds. Perhaps, less tangible, was the sense of patriotism as retired veterans admired aircraft from their own service days.

The success of the air show was the result of months of planning from a large team of military and civilian members. Air show security was a remarkable team effort of Westover's 140 men and women in the 439th Security Forces Squadron, 22 Department of Defense police officers, Massachusetts state troopers, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, OSI and FBI as well as local police from Chicopee, Ludlow and Granby. Together, they handled all security and traffic issues, which included checking all bags at the air show's entry points.

Master Sgt. Scott C. Daigneault, anti-terrorism program manager with the 439th SFS, credited the efforts of hundreds of reservist augmentees who assisted with security and parking details. "All the units stepped up to the plate and did an excellent job," he said. According to Robert Durand, Westover's chief of police services, the in-

ter-agency effort began in 1987 and has strengthened community security networks.

Lt. Col. Lenore Boris and Senior Master Sgt. Ron Labonte, 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, coordinated air show medical coverage. They blended the talents of the AMDS, and the 439th Aeromedical Staging and Evacuation Squadrons with the American Red Cross, Mass. Emergency Management Agency, Chicopee Emergency Management, and American Medical Response team.

Colonel Boris and Sergeant Labonte praised the role of the DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) and RI-1 Central Medical Emergency Direction for providing an outpatient emergency clinic and medical communications system respectively. "The DMAT allowed us to treat most ailments on-site. We only took five patients to local hospitals," Sergeant Labonte said.

Over the two-day period, the 200-member mixed team treated 167 people for a variety of ailments from heat exhaustion to pregnancy labor. Colonel Boris cited improved communication between agencies and water distribution through the Red Cross as key elements to the airshow success from a medical standpoint.

Warbirds bring back World War II memories for spectators

Article and photo

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

Spanning 103 feet long between orange wing tips, the B-17 Flying Fortress was a time machine at the Great New England Air Show. For two days, adults and children circled the silver bomber, touched rivets, machine gun barrels, props, and glass turrets. With awe, they revisited the skies of Europe, flak, Messerschmitts and the great air war of 1941-45 fought by American boys in sheepskin leather jackets and oxygen masks.

Guiding them back in time was Andy Szerdi, 19-year-old tail gunner, drafted out of Detroit. He formed up with his B-24 Liberator crew at the newly built Westover Army Air Base in the summer of 1943. Sixty-one years later ex-Sergeant Szerdi sat in a folding chair in the shadow of a Flying Fortress three-bladed engine cowlings and told again how his first encounter with a

German fighter left him a shaken teen.

"Today, four times, five times - people ask what I was. And I tell them all about it. And they say thank you for what you did in the service. They appreciate it," he said.

Szerdi's piece of World War II was 16 missions to Germany. On his first mission, he shot down a Messerschmitt fighter.

"They would sneak in the vapor trail behind the plane. The old timers said 'watch for their rudder sticking out of the vapor trail. It looks like a stick. They come straight in, but wait until you can see them fuzzy in the vapor.' I see him as a fuzzy blur and I raked him from one end to the other with the twin 50s until his engine was smoking."

When he landed back in England, the teen-ager was shaking from his experience of gun-to-gun combat. Today Szerdi's job is to represent all the vast drama of the air fleets in the European and Pacific theaters.

His B-17, the Yankee Lady, belongs to the Yankee Air Museum in Michigan. It is one of 13 Flying Fortresses still flying, out of 12,731 built during the war. Szerdi and others fly it to events from May to October.

They do it because, in the words of crew chief Norm Ellickson, "they sound and smell better than jets." They love the way a B-17 bounces rhythmically when taxiing and flies "honest." They love the rumble of four Curtiss Wright R-1820 nine-cylinder engines generating 1,200 horse power each and the smell of 100 octane aviation gas.

"I grew up around engines. It's great to take this plane out. We're always running into B-17 veterans," Ellickson said. "It's nice to see younger people interested. They like the ball turret, the

see **WARBIRDS** continued on next page



RUMBLING ALONG - The B-17 "Yankee Lady," one of the many vintage Warbirds aircraft that appeared at Westover for the Great New England Air Show, begins taxiing out to the runway.

Love of flying keeps retired reserve chief aloft in B-17

**Article and photo
by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco**

A man who chose a reserve career because he loved to fly and then led the Air Force Reserve into a new era, came to do a little flying and talk about airplanes during the Great New England Air Show.

Retired Maj. Gen. Richard Bodycombe, chief of the Air Force Reserve from 1979 to 1982, doesn't do as much flying as in earlier days, but he was at the controls for part of the flight of the B-17 Yankee Lady here. During the air show, the 82-year-old general was one more crew member, walking the ramp, fielding a thousand questions and working on his airplane.

Those who came to see the grand old World War II Flying Fortress and stayed to watch the veteran airman wrestle a three-bladed prop to get engine oil moving, couldn't know they were witnessing another legend in action. General Bodycombe's place in aviation history starts with combat over the Danube and continues through the Berlin

Airlift. He made history when he fostered the annual series of Redoubt exercises that reshaped Air Force Reserve training, climaxing with the two-week Condor Redoubt '81 simulation of a full mobilization of reserve forces.

General Bodycombe lives in Ann Arbor, Mich., and is a volunteer with the nearby Yankee Air Museum there. He helped restore the Yankee Lady over a nine-year period after it was bought from an Arizona company that used it for firefighting. "It looked like, as the Westerners say, 'a horse that was ridden hard and put away wet,'" the general said.

Wherever the Yankee Lady goes it attracts attention, from old turret gunners to awed children. General Bodycombe is at ease with all of them. Of the war record of the Flying Fortress, he says, "they brought these airplanes back completely shattered... it's as honest as the day is long, get it trimmed up, you can take your hands off."

General Bodycombe speaks with the authority of a pilot with 1,000 hours in the B-17. To his knowledge, he is the last World War II pilot to drop a bomb in anger who is still qualified on a bomber.

The Army Air Force taught him how to fly B-24 Liberators and he completed 19 combat missions with the 15th Air Force out of Italy. One mission targeted train marshaling yards at Graz, Austria. Flak knocked out the number one engine. With the engine feathered and the rpm on the number two engine out of control he crashed landed on

the Yugoslav island of Vis in the Adriatic Sea, saving all the crew.

"I was 22. I had a couple teenage gun-
see GENERAL continued on Page 10



PITCHING IN - Retired Maj. Gen. Richard Bodycombe helps the rest of the B-17 aircrew rotate each of the four props to get engine oil flowing before a flight. General Bodycombe commanded the Air Force Reserve from 1979 to 1982.

**General Bodycombe speaks
with the authority of a pilot
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WARBIRDS continued from page 3

machine guns. But more important we try to tell them something about history. One thing I found out is that it is amazing how little we teach our kids about World War II."

Szerdi was an Eighth Air Force man. Ten percent of all the Americans lost in World War II were Eighth Air Force men. The Forts were unpressurized. Temperatures could plunge to 60 below zero at 25,000 feet. Crews faced the dangers of frostbite and blackout from lack of oxygen.

The P-51 Mustang helped bring the bombers home. Robert Baranaskas of the Warbirds Over Long Island museum flew his personally owned Mustang "Glamorous Gal" to the air show. With six Browning .50-caliber machine guns in the wings and up to eight five-inch rockets on the underwing pylons, the Mustang was the formidable "little friend" of the Fortress and Liberator crews on the long missions to Berlin after 1943.

The 1,700-horsepower liquid cooled

Rolls Royce Merlin engine made the P-51 the bully of the skies. "It's like flying the muscle car of World War II. It's got power, it's fast, lots of guts and a great sound to it," Baranaskas said.

Representing the wartime role of airlift was the C-47 Skytrain from the American Airpower Museum of Long Island. General Eisenhower called the C-47 one of the four most important war winning weapons he commanded.

Sets of three white "D-Day" stripes on wings and fuselage are a reminder that C-47s carried the first paratroopers to Sainte-Mere Eglise and other drop zones to open the liberation of Europe. The C-47 at the air show was flown in the war by Royal Air Force crews who dubbed it the "Dakota." It is believed to be a D-Day veteran. After the war it was flown by the Israeli Air Force for 18 years.

The museum also brought to the air show an Avenger, the world's largest single-engine bomber. Primarily a torpedo bomber, it had a crew of four. President George H.W. Bush flew a Navy Avenger as a lieutenant

**"It's like flying the muscle car
of World War II. It's got
power, it's fast, lots of guts
and a great sound to it."**

**-- P-51 pilot Robert
Baranaskas**

off a carrier in the Pacific. He was shot down at Chichi Jima on his 58th mission, losing two of his crew.

Ultimately, the Warbird display at the air show was about the long ranks of veterans from from Sgt. Szerdi to Lt. Bush, those who came home and those remembered on memorial stones.

"I like flying a piece of history," said Chris Baranaskas, who flew to the air show his father's SNJ 5, the Navy version of the T-6 Texan trainer. "It honors the guys who came before us and all the amazing things they did," he said.

Great New England Air Show



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

STILL FLYING - A couple enjoys the aerial acrobatics of the Red Barons, a flying team that uses World War II vintage aircraft. Visitors enjoyed two days of spectacular performances from acts like the Red Barons and many other current and vintage military aircraft.



photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Flipse

UNDER FEET - Scores of curious people huddle under the bomb bay of a B-52H Stratofortress, one of more than 20 static aircraft on display during the air show.



photo by Master Sgt. W. C. Pope

INSIDE AND OUT - Visitors stroll through the cargo deck of one of the Patriot Wing's C-5As. Air show organizers and maintenance workers set up two C-5s for static display on the south and north ends of the flight line, allowing the visitors to see the inside and outside of the big airlifters. Besides the C-5s, other aircraft on display included a B-52, KC-10, C-141, KC-135, F/A-18, and many other current and World War II military types.



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

ON GUARD - Senior Airman Elliot L. Moya, 439th Security Forces Squadron, patrols the flight line during the air show.



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

JUST IN CASE - Medical specialists review notes and stay prepared for any medical situation.

ow soars with weekend fun



DIAMOND PASS - The Thunderbirds zoom past the air show crowds in their trademark diamond formation.

photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

WATCHING AND WAITING - The air show crowd fixes its eyes on the end of the runway as the Thunderbirds begin their air show Aug. 14.



photo by Maj. Wilson Camelo

PLANE TALK - Retired Lt. Col. Gale French, right, and Archie Batista talk with Lt. Col. Keith P. Guillotte and Maj. Craig C. Peters, C-17 pilots, inside the flight deck. Colonel Guillotte and Major Peters flew the C-17 from Charleston AFB, S.C.



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY - Reservists dance to the sounds of the Marshall Tucker Band Aug. 14. The 439th Services Squadron hosted the event at the base ellipse as part of the air show.



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

DAZZLING - The Galaxy Community Council sponsored a dazzling fireworks display Aug. 14 for wing reservists and civilian employees.



photo by Master Sgt. W. C. Pope

THIS WAY, PLEASE - Master Sgt. Anthony Grant, 439th Maintenance Squadron, helps a visitor park.

New staff judge advocate joins Patriot Wing

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

Lt. Col. Peter H. Babcock, who has served as a civilian attorney for three branches of the military, was named 439th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate in July. He succeeded Col. Theresa A. Negron, who has accepted a senior Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) position at Washington, DC.

Colonel Babcock is employed as an Air Force civilian attorney specializing in labor and environmental law at Hanscom AFB, Mass. He has also previously served as a civilian attorney for the Army and Coast Guard.

A native of Yonkers, N.Y., Colonel Babcock graduated from the State University of New York at Albany, NY. He was commissioned after receiving his law degree from Villanova School of Law, Villanova, Pa.

During four years of active duty, Colonel Babcock served as a legal officer at McClellan AFB, Calif.; Iraklion AS, Crete; and Hanscom AFB. Immediately following active duty, he accepted an IMA position at Loring AFB, Maine. Most recently he served as an IMA legal officer at Hanscom AFB.

As staff judge advocate, Colonel Babcock is legal advisor to Westover commanders on military justice, operational law

and other legal issues. He oversees the Judge Advocate office consisting of Maj. Lawrence K. Josiah, deputy staff judge advocate; Tech. Sgt. Janet M. Bicho, law office manager; Tech. Sgt. Louisa J. Gonzalez, paralegal; and Staff Sgt. Caroline A. Roy, paralegal.

Colonel Babcock resides with his wife, Patti, and their two daughters and a son in Acton, Mass.



Colonel Babcock

Former Cold War spy lab crumbles into history

Article and photo
by Tech Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Like the Berlin Wall's demise in 1989, a Cold War landmark at Westover met its end June 30 at the hands of a demolition crew.

Workers tore down Bldg. 1900 on Eagle Drive, across from the military personnel flight offices. The building was once used by the Strategic Air Command (SAC) for high-level classified photography developing.

According to wing history records, SAC's 8th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron occupied the building from 1955 to 1970 amid super-secret conditions. One of the squadron's most famous missions was developing film from an Air Force U-2 spy plane that showed President John F. Kennedy the presence of Soviet Union missiles during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The former photo lab housed all of the necessary facilities to be self-sufficient. It had its own bunkers and kitchen, and two wells dug about 600 feet underground.

SAC operated Westover from 1955 to 1974. Other units assigned to the base included headquarters 8th Air Force and the 99th Bombardment Wing. After the Department of Defense announcement in



CRUMBLING DOWN – Workers tear down a section of Bldg. 1900 on Eagle Drive June 30. The building once housed the famous Strategic Air Command mapping and photography squadron which developed crucial film during the Cold War years at Westover.

April 1973 of the partial closure of the base, Westover became the first Air Force Reserve installation in the United States in May 1974. Leroy R. Clink, base civil engineer,

said Bldg. 1900 had been used for storage since 1974, but had no power or electricity.

Marine Corps Community Services trains Key volunteers

by Sergeant Sherry Haetinger
Marines Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Key volunteers from Marine Wing Support Squadron-472 Detachment B and Marine Air Support Squadron-6 met at Westover July 24 for training given by Marine Corps Community Services.

The training, held at the Lt. Michael J. Casey Reserve Center, covered such topics as how to properly establish a working

phone tree, getting the community involved and, most important, how to help deployed Marines and their families.

The Marine Corps has a direct chain of command and the Key Volunteer Network [KVN] serves as a similar device for family members.

Joyce Murphy is the Marine Corps Family Team Building Coordinator based in Quantico, Va. People who would like to have Mrs. Murphy visit their units may call her at (703) 784-2687, DSN 278-2687 or e-mail at Joyce.k.Murphy@usmc.mil

New Catholic chaplain leads the masses

Article and photo

by Senior Airman Tom Ouellette

For the first time in eight years, Westover has a Catholic chaplain. Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jeffrey A. Ballou is the Patriot Wing's newest spiritual leader and served his first UTA in June.

Although his military career here has just begun, Chaplain Ballou's presence at Westover is far from new. Throughout the past two years, he has frequently volunteering his services with Catholic Masses here.

Chaplain Ballou's commission is a welcomed addition to the wing's religious corps. Master Sgt. Robert J. Kazalski, a chapel service support specialist, with help from Chaplain (Capt.) William S. Wiecher, led the charge. "Because we have so many Catholics here, we felt it was important to have a Catholic chaplain. And he's great, people love him, and you could see he enjoys being here," Sergeant Kazalski said.

Half of the Patriot Wing is Catholic. Of Westover's 2,326 reservists, 1,112 are Catholic.

Base officials contacted the Springfield

Diocese - the Most Rev. Thomas Dupre and he granted his approval. Chaplain Ballou said he's delighted.

"Not only do I get to serve God, I now get to serve to my country too. I never expected this," he said.

The 39-year-old chaplain earned one undergraduate degree and two graduate degrees in addition to working various science-related careers.

He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Western New England College in 1987, a master's in biology from the University of Hartford in 1992 and a master's in divinity from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., in May 2001.

In between earning his first master's degree and entering the seminary, Chaplain Ballou worked as an administrator at Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston and as a research scientist at Energy Beam Sciences in Agawam.

The Palmer, Mass., native served as parochial vicar at Chicopee's St. Rose de Lima Church immediately following his ordination until last June. He is now at Springfield's Holy Cross Church.



CATHOLIC MASS - Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jeffrey A. Ballou conducts mass on the August A UTA. Chaplain Ballou is the first Catholic chaplain to be assigned to the base in eight years.

Windows memorialize loss of B-52 crew in crash

Article and photo

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The stark backdrop of stained glass windows in the base chapel memorialize the lives lost in a Cold War training mission flown from Westover more than 40 years ago.



IN MEMORY - Master Sgt. Robert J. Kazalski stands next to the stained glass windows inside the base chapel that memorialize seven men from Westover who lost their lives in a B-52 crash in Maine more than 40 years ago.

Master Sgt. Robert J. Kazalski, noncommissioned officer in charge of the wing chapel staff, said the windows honor seven men killed in a B-52 crash from Westover. The B-52, part of the 99th Bombardment Wing at Westover, took off from the base on a training mission Jan. 24, 1963, and crashed into Elephant Mountain near Greenville, Maine.

Twelve years ago, Sergeant Kazalski talked with retired Lt. Col. Dante Bulli, the aircraft commander of the ill-fated flight. He and Capt. Gerald J. Adler, electronic warfare officer, survived the crash after having ejected from the B-52.

Colonel Bulli was able to provide some information that is displayed today in the chapel. Later on, Sergeant Kazalski mailed photos of the stained glass windows to the colonel.

Sergeant Kazalski said it is important for today's Westover community to know that the base dates back to 1940 - just before America entered World War II.

"I think we all need to remember the history of the base," he said. "People need to understand what part they play now and what's going on in the world, and what part Westover played in World War II, the Korean War, the Berlin Airlift, the Vietnam War and Desert Storm. We need to keep the connection going."

Sergeant Kazalski said the windows help commemorate an era in which the Cold War guided American defense planning right at Westover. "The windows are a good opportunity to learn about what happened years ago with the B-52s and the dangerous training missions those guys went through," he said.

The base chapel is located in Bldg. 1100 on Walker Drive.

Patriot Wing exec officer plays in state tournament

by Senior Airman Thomas Ouellette

A Patriot Wing officer recently earned bronze medal honors in volleyball, during one of Massachusetts' premier sporting events.

Maj. Patrick S. Ryan, who is the wing executive officer and a veteran volleyball player, joined his 15-man team at the Baystate Games July 9-11 at Bridgewater State College. They battled through a series of hard-fought matches in search of gold.

The Baystate Games are an annual Olympic-style sporting event, covering everything from archery to water polo. Top-level state athletes, separated by category and region, vie for state bragging rights.

"I've been playing volleyball since I was 12 - it's my favorite sport. It was great to get the chance to play again," Major Ryan said.

His team began the tournament on a promising note, finishing tied for first with a 6-2 record in pool play. But during the medal round, his team's winning touch lost some of its luster, allowing two teams to advance past them to capture the gold and silver medals.

"I believe we could have won. We just did not play well on Sunday (the medal round)," Major Ryan said.

Yet winning the gold medal wasn't the first thing on Major Ryan's mind. Getting to play again competitively was his primary interest.

As an all-conference award winning volleyball player during his college days at the University of New Hampshire, Major Ryan said he misses the game and was grateful for one more chance to compete again.

"I don't have much time to play as it is. And with my wife expecting our baby soon, I might not get the chance to play



Major Ryan

again for a while. I was just glad for the opportunity to play," he said.

The Baystate Games have six regions: western, central, metro, northeast, costal and southeast. Men and women compete in three categories, based on

an athlete's age.

The scholastic division is for players under 19 years of age; the open division is open to all ages, but athletes are typically between ages of 19 and 30; and the masters division is for athletes more than 30 years of age. Major Ryan represented the western region in the masters' category.



Courtesy photo

LOW-FLYING GALAXY - A C-5 weathervane "flies" above Chief Master Sgt. John Missale's house in Hadley, Mass. The chief loadmaster for the 337th Airlift Squadron couldn't decide what he wanted for a weathervane to place atop the new cupola on his house. Retired loadmaster Tech. Sgt. Tom Moore came to the rescue. Using sheet copper, Moore, who is a steeplejack by trade, fashioned this C-5 Galaxy replica.

GENERAL continued from Page 5

ners. I saw them age before my eyes. My mother said 'you went away 20 and came back looking 35.' I said, 'well Mom, it was a tough war,' he recalled.

After the war, he returned to school, but was called back for the Berlin Airlift. "I received a letter from the Department of the Air Force which said President Truman wants to help the beleaguered people of Berlin," the said. He ferried coal and flour aboard C-54s to Templehof Airfield, Berlin.

Staying in the Air Force, he was among the original cadre which set up the curriculum of training for the first Air Force Academy class in 1955.

Later he became a commercial pilot and joined the Air Force Reserve because he felt it gave him the best opportunity to keep flying. He started his reserve career flying the C-46 out of Chicago-O'Hare Airport.

As chief of the Air Force Reserve, General Bodycombe's legacy will be the annual Redoubt exercises designed to prove that reservists could respond to any crisis.

Westover was the focal point for the two-week long Condor Redoubt '81. At one minute after midnight, Aug. 15, 1981, a composite wing was activated here. The 58th Aerial Port Squadron staffed an air terminal which handled 900 aircraft, almost 7,000 passengers and two million pounds of cargo.

The massive exercise ranged from the forward operating base at Goose Bay Airport, Labrador to Panama as all reservists and many inactive reservists were called to duty. The retired reserve chief is proud that the Redoubt exercises clearly established the reserve as the worthy partner of the active-duty forces.

Today, whether wearing the hat of a two-star general or the ball cap of a B-17 crew member, one uniform item remains constant. General Bodycombe's flight suit is never without the blue and gold patch of his Air Force Reserve.

Marines meritoriously promote MASS-6 corporal

A Marine assigned to Marine Air Support Squadron-6 earned a meritorious promotion to sergeant in August.

David R. Butters was a corporal for more than four years. His command decided to request his promotion, meritoriously, through 4th Marine Air Wing. Sergeant Butters' promotion took

place with a troop formation and in front of his wife, Janine, and their three children, Kaia, Kambria and Jaxon.

MASS-6 is one of two Marine reserve units assigned at Westover ARB. Besides the host 439th Airlift Wing, the base also houses Army and Navy reserve units.



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

Staff Sgt. Kerry Anne Trombly

Patriot People

Name: Kerry Anne Trombly**Rank:** Staff Sgt.**Age:** 26**Address:** Leominster, Mass.**Unit:** 85th Aerial Port Squadron**Position:** Information manager**Favorite food:** Spaghetti**Years of service:** Seven**Favorite sport:** Baseball**Favorite hobby:** Theatre**Ideal vacation:** On a Hawaii beach, sipping a pina colada**Best way to relax:** Walking**Preferred entertainment:** Playing with my nephews**Favorite hero:** Family and four sisters**Favorite music:** All types**Favorite movie:** Goodfellas**Favorite aircraft:** F-16**Pet peeve:** Rude people at customer service areas**What would I do if I won \$1 million:** Scream, then take my family to Hawaii, build a house, buy a new Mazda 6, and donate to charity

Patriot Praises

Retirements:

Colonel

Thomas A. Mauzaka

Lieutenant colonel

Talivaldis I. Maidelis
David T. Moore

Captain

Shawn V. Howard

Chief master sergeant

John M. Budenas

Senior master sergeant

Ronald N. Beaulieu
Robert J. Rock

Master sergeant

Marcus S. Flinkins
Kent W. Hautanen
Daniel P. Hickey
Timothy G. Williams

Technical sergeant

Donald K. Blaisdell Jr.
Paul A. Dufrensne Jr.
Paul C. Norton
Thomas A. Kovacs
Brice E. Moseley

Newly assigned:

Captain

Jason W. Card
Andrew F. Mihaley

First lieutenant

Jeffery A. Ballou
James C. Grove

Master sergeant

Mark W. O'Connell

Technical sergeant

Brenda L. Sanderson

Staff sergeant

David J. Hans
Amber D. Miller
Louis M. Rodriguez

Senior airman

Ryan L. Langlois
David J. Oliveira
Steven M. Power

Airman first class

Cullen J. Gardner
Parthengia R. Kitchens

Airman basic

Danielle L.N. Knight

Enlistments:

Technical sergeant

Jeremy J. Hart
Brian J. Johnson
David A. Pais
Thomas L. Warren

Staff sergeant

Jonathan J. Beale
Janet R. Clayton
James J. Fitzell Jr.
Paul N. Flipse
Michael T. Morris
Martin J. Ochtabec
Zaki-Jabbar S. Robinson
Kelly A. Spaulding
Laurie A. Webber

Senior airman

Jason D. Boucher
David A. Cunningham
James E. Dupuis
Lloyd K. Elliott II

Jan M. Ford

Nicholas A. Henchy
Juan J. Hiciano
Patrick L. Moffa
Donald Vetrano Jr.

Airman first class

Lauren L. Anglin
Sandra M. Bethea
Christina A. Burgos
Aaron M. Conrad
Shannon L. Donnelly
Richard S. Furness
Jeff B. Guinn
Lacreasha D. Jones
Maritza K. Kulcsar
Ann M. Leifer
Lekeya S. Parks
Tara L. Pasquarella
Jennifer J. Riley

D'Aydra L. Robinson

Daniel J. Rosario
Joseph P. Salvatore
Jamie T. Serrano
Ashanti A. Soyini
Susan-Marie B. White
Rowdy L. Wright
Eric P. Zawatski

Airman

Ronald R. Schwalm

Airman basic

Cecil A. Calvin
Garret H. Deschenes
Daniel K. Saliba

Airman Leadership School graduate:

Senior Airman Rachel A. Garcia

Awards and Decorations

Air Force

Achievement Medal

Chief master sergeant
Arthur F. Flynn

Master sergeant

David P. Adams*
Kenneth R. Belanger**
David E. Berube***
Jon Burgess**
Marck A. Czmyr***
William P. Hurley Jr.*
Gary F. Marchand*
Michael J. O'Hearn
Dennis M. Primiano

Roger Prinz*

Gary M. Weber

Technical sergeant

Michael E. Allan*
Russell J. Atkinson
Vincent T. Bovino
Stephen R. Brooks
Patrick K. Campbell*
Ken W. Chouinard Jr.*
Daniel J. Cote
Richard C. Evers
Steven J. Foote

* First oak leaf cluster

** Second oak leaf cluster

*** Third oak leaf cluster

Knight-time at Westover

Army's elite parachutists 'drop' into airshow



photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza

READY TO GO - Golden Knights team leader, Army Staff Sgt. Harold Meyers, checks wind direction and target position before the team's jump over the Great New England Air Show, followed by the team members' descent and landing to open the air show activities Aug. 14.



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward



photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

September UTA schedule
A UTA Sept. 11-12
B UTA Sept. 25-26



439th AW/PA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
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East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Robert Teixeira, Fall River, Mass., and 2,325 reservists of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.